

December 3, 1964

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, made up of 3 members each from Canada and the United States, has reported continuing success in efforts to control sea lampreys and restore lake trout to Lake Superior.

Donald L. McKernan, Chairman of the Commission and Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, said that since joint control efforts by the United States and Canada began in 1958, lampreys in Lake Superior have been reduced by about 80 percent. And he said lake trout, primary target of the lamprey, are showing improved survival rates as well as increases in natural spawning. At one time the predatory lamprey had virtually eliminated lake trout in the Great Lakes.

Efforts to control the sea lamprey by selective chemicals have been concentrated primarily in streams feeding into Lake Superior where some lake trout remained. Treatments have recently been extended to Lake Michigan where the initial series will be completed by the summer of 1966. Mr. McKernan said success of the program in Lake Superior could lead to reestablishment of trout and increased production of other valuable species in the upper Great Lakes. There have already been marked improvements in Lake Superior.

At the opening session of its 2-day interim meeting in Washington December 2, Commission members stressed that it would continue to

insist on the use of the safest, non-persistent chemicals available. Contractors and agencies responsible to the Commission were instructed to continue to seek more effective chemicals to kill the lampreys without harming other organisms, and at the same time dissipate rapidly and harmlessly in the water.

In addition to Mr. McKernan, the United States is represented by Lester P. Voigt, and Claude Ver Duin. Canadian Commissioners are: Dr. Andrew L. Fritchard; Dr. John E. Dymond; and Dr. A. O. Blackhurst.

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